

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 02324 232156Z

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 SS-15 NSC-05 SIL-01 LAB-04 /065 W

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R 232135Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7156

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

FAA BRUSSELS

FAA WASHDC

DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION WASHDC

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR

SUBJECT: FO ON CONCORDE

REF: PARIS 02027

1. THIS WILL SUPPLEMENT REFTTEL BY FOCUSING ON
FORCE OUVRIERE, THE SECOND LARGEST LABOR ORGANIZATION
KNOWN FOR ITS MODERATION, OPPOSITION TO COMMUNIST-
CONTROLLED CGT FRIENDLY ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE U.S.
HENCE NEED TO RECORD FO'S VIEWS ON CONCORDE.

2. FO AND ESPECIALLY ITS METALWORKERS FEDERATION,
WHICH HAS MAJORITY CONTROL IN SNIAS PLANT IN TOULOUSE,
HAS CAREFULLY ABSTAINED FROM ANY PUBLIC COMMENT ON
CONCORDE, ALTHOUGH THEIR CONCERN ABOUT THE U.S.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 02324 232156Z

DECISION IS AS INTENSE AND EXPLOSIVE AS THAT OF
CGT. THEIR SILENCE WAS DICTATED BY THEIR CONCERN

NOT TO APPEAR AS THOUGH THEY ARE FOLLOWING THE CGT
LEAD AND ARE AVAILABLE FOR ANY JOINT ACTION WITH
IT.

3. HOWEVER, ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS FO LEADERS HAVE
CAUTIONED LABOR ATTACHE LEST "THE U.S. OFFICIALS
UNDERESTIMATE THE NEGATIVE POLITICAL IMPACT" ON
FRENCH PUBLIC OPINION WHICH A U.S. DECISION DENYING
LANDING RIGHTS TO CONCORDE WILL CREATE. THEY ARE
CONVINCED THAT THE RESERVOIR OF FRENCH GOODWILL
TOWARDS "AMERICA" WILL BE DRAINED OVERNIGHT IF
CONCORDE LOSES OUT. THEY ARE EQUALLY CONCERNED
THAT IN SUCH EVENT THE COMMUNISTS STAND TO GAIN
THE MOST IN TERMS OF THEIR IMAGE AS TRUE DEFENDERS
OF FRENCH NATIONAL INTEREST AND PRIDE. THE
COMMUNISTS CAN BE COUNTED UPON, SAY THE FO LEADERS,
TO EXPLOIT THE ISSUE BY PAINTING THE AMERICANS IN THE
WORST POSSIBLE COLORS AS RUTHLESS ECONOMIC
POWER BENT ON THOROUGH ECONOMIC DOMINATION OF
EUROPE AND THE WORLD.

4. EVEN ANDRE BERGERON, FO SECRETARY GENERAL, A
MODERATE MAN WHO SHIES AWAY FROM EXCESSIVE LANGAUGE
ON ANY SUBJECT, TOLD LABATT THAT "WASHINGTON
WILL BE MAKING A SERIOUS POLITICAL ERROR IF CONCORDE
IS TURNED DOWN."

5. FO METALWORKERS LEADERS ADMITTED TO LABATT
THAT THEY WILL FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO RESIST
PRESSURE FROM THEIR RANK AND FILE TO JOIN THE
OUTCRY AGAINST THE U.S. IF A NEGATIVE DECISION IS
TAKEN AND TO SUPPORT THE DEMANDS WHICH WILL BE
MADE ON GOF TO FIND WAYS AND MEANS TO RETALIATE.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNIONS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, CONCORDE, SUPERSONIC AIRCRAFT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS02324
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760027-0916
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760127/aaaaaxvm.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PARIS 2027
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <13 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FO ON CONCORDE
TAGS: EAIR, FR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006